Vol. VIII. Numb. 87

THE OBSERVATOR.

More Reflexions on Dr. Sacheverell's *Sermons, and the diſaffected Mob that follow him. The Government of the City concern'd to take Care of it, and to reſent the Affronts put upon them by it. Their Charter ſeiz'd for leſs in former Reigns. His Sermon on the 5th of* November againſt reſiſting of Princes on any Pretence whatever, *is an Affront to the Legiſlature, arraigns the Act of 1ſt of* William *and* Mary, *Seſſ.* 2. *Cap.* 2. *flies in the Face of her Majeſty and the Parliament, and condemns her Majeſty and the late Prince of* Denmark, *King* William *and Queen* Mary, *and the whole Nation, as Rebels and Traitors, as is prov'd by* Reflexions on that Sermon, *printed for* J. Baker *in* Pater-Noſter-Row. *On the miſerable Caſe of the poor Silk-Weavers, and the Damage done to the Revenue and Trade by long and general Mournings.*

From Saturday, November 26. to Wednesday, November 30. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT News from *London* now, *Roger?*

Country-m. The chief Subject of Diſcourſe there at preſent, is about Dr. *Sacheverell's* Sermons and Conduct, Maſter.

Obſ. Why ſo, *Roger?* Has the Doctor preach'd any more ſuch Sermons as that of the 5th of *November?*

Country-m. He continues to preach much after the ſame Manner. I thought to have heard him at *Lothbury*-Church on Sunday laſt, but could not, the Crowd was ſo great. Beſides, Maſter, he has ſuch a Mob following him, that 'tis ſcarce ſafe for an honeſt Man to be among 'em; they could not forbear inſulting Mr. *Biſſet* in St. *Paul*'s-Church, for all his Gown; ſome of 'em offer to draw their Swords, if any Body teſtify their Diſlike of him; and I was like to be knock'd o'th' Head, for asking why the People flock'd ſo in *Lothbury?* and whether there was any Rarce-ſhow, or Monſter to be ſeen thereabouts?

Obſ. Theſe Things are not to be jeſted with, *Roger.* I conceive the Government of the City is concern'd to look after it. 'Tis not very much for their Honour, that ever ſuch an Incendiary ſhould have been ſuffer'd to preach within their Walls, and much leſs in their Cathedral, before their chief Magiſtrates. 'Tis true, the Honourable Court of Aldermen did their Duty, by putting ſuch a Mark of Diſreſpect upon him, as not to ſuffer his Sermon to be printed by their Authority; therefore I take it to be an Affront to the Government of the City, that any Citizen ſhould have encourag'd the Printing of it. He has Folly and ill Nature enough to have done it of himſelf, without anyſuch Patronage. And after ſuch a Rebuke from the Court of Aldermen, 'tis a very unbecoming Practice in any Body, to deſire him to preach in the City. He boaſts, in his *Derbyſhire* Sermon, of the Lives and Fortunes there were to defend his High-Church in the Country; and now it ſeems he is come to enrol more in the City.

Country-m. He boaſts of great Numbers of Citizens that he calls loyal Subjects, and great Supporters of his Church, Maſter. Therefore I think, as you ſay, the Government of the City is oblig'd to take Care of every Thing that may bring a diſaffected Mob together. There are Jacobites and Papiſts enough about Town, that would be glad of any Opportunity to raiſe Tumults; the Conſequence of which may be very dangerous at ſuch a Time as this, when there are ſuch Multitudes of People that want both Bread and Work.

Obſ. 'Tis well, *Roger*, we don't live under ſuch a Government as that of King *Charles* and King *James* the IId. They would have deſir'd no better Opportunity for bringing a *Quo Warranto* againſt the City-Charter, than the ſuffering Preachers publickly to rail upon their Adminiſtration and Acts of Parliament. They would have thought themſelves juſtify'd to do it at once, had any Divine openly before the Magiſtrates ſtruck at their Title to the Crown, as the Doctor did at that of the Queen, by condemning to the Bottomleſs Pit the Doctrine of the Lawfulneſs of reſiſting Princes, on any Pretence whatſoever, without ſo much as excepting that remarkable Caſe of the Revolution, by which her Majeſty not only holds her Crown, but her Life; for had the Deſign miſcarry'd, there were thoſe who would ſoon have ſent her to the *Tower*, and brought her Head to the Block. The late Biſhops in *Scotland*, in their Addreſs to King *James* on that Occaſion, wiſh'd he might trample upon the Necks of his Enemies, tho' they knew that both the late Queen, and her preſent Majeſty, and the Princes their Husbands, were reckon'd among the Number; and had not Providence preſerv'd all of 'em out of their Hands, whatever the Bowels of a Father might have done, we could not have promis'd much Compaſſion from bigotted Prieſts, and a Mother-in-Law, who would not allow either of the Princeſſes to be Witneſſes to the Birth of their pretended Brother. By this you may ſee, *Roger*, what Friends Dr. *Sacheverell* and his Faction are to her Majeſty's Life and Dignity, to revive that exploded Doctrine at this Time a Day. But 'tis a neceſſary Cordial to the Court of *St. Germains*, to keep them from fainting under their preſent Calamities, and to put them in Hopes, that better Times are a coming. Whenever we ſhall be ſo far curs'd, as to have the Friends of Aſſaſſins and Plotters elected Magiſtrates, we have a Set of Chaplains ready to teach them which Way to employ their Authority. If they will ſend the Doctor's falſe Brethren to the Gallows, he has *Anathema's* as ready at Hand to ſend 'em from thence to Hell, as *Cook*, *Collier*, and *Sturt* had Abſolutions to ſend Sir *William Perkins*, Sir *John Friend*, and the other Aſſaſſins and Plotters from *Tyburn* to Heaven, as they had a Troop of High-Church nonjurant Prieſts in Readineſs to hallow their Rebellion, had it taken Effect; which was prov'd at their Tryal.

Country-m. You know the Proverb, Maſter, Give the Faction Rope enough, and they will ——— ; but we need not trouble our ſelves ſo much with the Doctor, he is taken to Task elſewhere. Here's two Penny Reflexions upon his two Penny Sermon, printed for *J. Baker*. I have mark'd ſome Paſſages in it, Maſter, that I take to be for our Purpoſe. The Author, pag. 6. asks the Doctor how he can have the Face to ſay, that Reſiſtance, upon any Pretence whatever, is unlawful, ſince, in the 1ſt of *William* and *Mary*, Seſſ. 2. Cap. 2. the Cauſes of depoſing the late King *James* are inſerted; and it is there enacted, that all and every Perſon that is or ſhall be a Papiſt, or marry a Papiſt, ſhall be excluded from the Crown, the People abſolv'd

Here

from their Allegiance to them, and the next in the Proteſtant Line ſhall inherit.

Obſ. You know, *Roger*, that you and I urg'd the ſame againſt the *Rehearſer*; the Argument is certainly right. By this you may ſee that Dr. *Sacheverell* joins with profeſs'd Nonjurants of the St. *Germians* Faction, and is doing their Work for them. For, according to his Doctrine, this Act of Parliament is damn'd Rebellion, and we are not to put it in Practice, ſhould we ever be ſo unfortunate as to have a Prince turn Papiſt, or marry a Papiſt. If a Parliament will ſuffer their Authority to be tramp'd on thus to their Faces, *Roger*, you and I can't help it; for there's nothing plainer in the World, than that the Reſiſtance and Dethronement of the late King *James*, is juſtify'd by that Act, and that it makes Reſiſtance our Duty, ſhould any of our Princes either turn Papiſts, or marry a Papiſt. What millions of Lives and Money might have been ſav'd, not only to *Great Britain*, but to all *Europe*, had there been ſuch an Act to prevent King *Charles* the Firſt, and his two Sons, from marrying Papiſts? But we know, *Roger*, that *Laud* and his Faction condemn'd good Archbiſhop *Abbot* for a Traytor, and falſe Brother, becauſe he adviſ'd King *James* the Firſt againſt that Match, as Dr. *Sacheverell* condemns that excellent Perſon Archbiſhop *Grindall* for his Moderation towards thoſe who differ'd from him. At the ſame Time, we ſee how the Doctor and his Faction are paving the Way for the Pretender, in Spite of that Act of Parliament; for if Reſiſtance be lawful in no Caſe, we muſt not pretend to pull him down from the Throne, ſhould he once aſcend it, by the Arms of *France*, and the Treachery of High Church.

Country-m. Let's leave the Doctor at this Time, Maſter, and conſider the Letter I brought you laſt Day, about the Caſe of the poor Silk-Weavers; which in ſhort is thus: The Gentleman ſays, That laſt Spring was twelve Month, they began to have a pretty briſk Trade in *February*, and ſome Part of *March*, but the News of the Invaſion by the High-Church's King, put a Stop to all Buſineſs for all that Summer; at the latter End of which, they began to have ſome Buſineſs again, when it pleas'd God to remove his Royal Highneſs Prince *George*, which occaſion'd a general Mourning. This oblig'd the Maſter Weavers, in order to keep their poor Work-People from ſtarving, to go on with making great Quantities of Goods, from 500 *l.* to 1000 *l.* and ſome perhaps to 1500 *l.* Worth of broad Silks, Ribbonds, *&c.* in Hopes to have had a Vent for them at the End of the Year, when they began again to have a little Trade; but the Mourning being renew'd for ſix Months, has blaſted their Hopes, and not only oblig'd them to turn off their poor Work-People, but is like to undo many of the Maſter Workmen, whoſe Stocks lie dead in their Hands, while the Families they employ'd, have pawn'd all they had for Bread, and having nothing left, are reduc'd to a more wretched Condition than the poor *Palatines*; for many of the Workmen being Maſters of Families that formerly liv'd creditably by their Employments, are aſham'd to beg, and would be glad of ſuch an Allowance as the *Palatines* have to keep them from ſtarving. The Gentleman expreſſes a real and hearty Concern for the Loſs her Majeſty and the Nation has ſuſtain'd by the Prince's Death, but thinks, if her Majeſty had been duly inform'd how many thouſands of her Subjects are reduc'd to Miſery by the Length of the general Mourning, ſhe would, in her Royal Wiſdom, have been pleas'd to order ſome other Way for the Nation's expreſſing their juſt Sorrow, than by this, which is ſo fatal to Trade.

Obſ. Thoſe People have been wanting to themſelves, *Roger*; for her Majeſty, who is all Goodneſs, and makes the Welfare of her Subjects, her chief Care, would certainly have contriv'd Ways to have given thoſe poor Tradeſmen Eaſe, by ordering ſome other Method for every one, but thoſe who belong to the Court, to expreſs their Grief for this national Calamity, than ſuch as brings on another; for it ſeems to be Preſumption, as well as Vanity, in middling People, who are the great Conſumers of our Manufacture, to follow the Mode of the Court, eſpecially in Mourning for foreign Princes, in whom we have no ſuch Concern as we had in his R. Highneſs: For thoſe general Mournings not only affect poor Silk-Weavers, but our Merchants, Mercers, Silk-men, Milliners, Cloathiers, Combers, Spinners, Carders, Fullers, Dyers of Scarlet and Colours, both of Silk and Cloath, Weavers of all Kinds, both Silver Lace, broad Silks, Ribbonds, and Cloath, Silk-Throwers, Winſters of Silk, Silver-Refiners, Silver-Wiredrawers, Flatters of Silver, Spinners of Silver, White Thread Bone-Lace-makers, Gold and Silver Bone-Lace-makers, and many others, too tedious to inſert. In ſhort, the publick Mournings affect, by a modeſt Computation, 500000 of the Subjects immediately employ'd in thoſe Trades, beſides thoſe that depend upon them, make thouſands of Families chargeable to their Pariſhes and Friends, and hinder the Conſumption of the Nation's Product in Meat, Drink, Apparel, and Houſe-Rent, beſides the Damage it does to our Navigation, and our Trade of Export and Import; ſo that the Conſequence reaches every Branch of the Revenue, ſinks it now, when there's moſt Occaſion to have it augmented, makes People unable to pay their Taxes, and affects every landed Man and Family in the Kingdom. Therefore I hope our Legiſlature will take this Matter into their moſt ſerious Conſideration, and make an effectual Law to regulate publick Mournings in Time to come, not only for the Sake of the Poor, but for their own Sake, and that of the Revenue and Trade, the main Support of the Government and Nation.

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